

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 4, 17, and 25 are amended as follows, wherein strikeout in brackets [00] indicates deleted terminology and underling [00] indicates added terminology.

4. (Amended) The microarray of claim 3, wherein the polynucleotide is selected from [a] the group consisting of an oligonucleotide, DNA, amplified DNA, cDNA, single stranded DNA, double stranded DNA, PNA, RNA, and mRNA.
17. (Amended) The microarray of claim 15, wherein the substrate is in a form selected from the group consisting of threads, sheets, films, gels, membranes, beads, and plates~~[- and like structures]~~.
25. (Amended) A microarray prepared by a method comprising:
 - (a) providing a multifunctional linker reagent comprising two or more reactive groups, wherein a first reactive group reacts with a functional group of a microarray substrate and a second reactive group reacts with a target molecule ~~[capable of reacting with a functional group on a surface of a microarray substrate and capable of reacting with a target molecule]~~;
 - (b) activating the substrate surface for immobilizing the target molecule, by silanizing the surface with a silane in toluene in the absence of acetone or an alcohol, wherein the silane comprises a functionality reactive with the multifunctional linker reagent, and wherein the activating further comprises immobilizing the multifunctional linker reagent on the silanized

surface by attaching the multifunctional linker reagent to the silane via [a] the first reactive group of the linker reagent and a reactive group of the silane;

(c) providing a solution comprising a target molecule having one or more functional groups reactive with [a] the second reactive group of the immobilized multifunctional linker reagent;

(d) attaching the target molecule to the substrate surface by contacting the target molecule with the activated substrate surface under conditions that promote attachment of the target molecule to the immobilized multifunctional linker reagent.